

With Our Thanks
2021

GUILDHALL
SCHOOL

1.26m raised

Guildhall School Scholarships this year

*Over 500
supporters*

000

ists, across 125 countries

72 new donors
supported the
School for the first
time this year

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University Guide

With Our Thanks

adapt and flourish despite the impact of a global pandemic.

During 2020-21 you have:

- Supported 578 students at Guildhall School with scholarships
- Provided 80 Guildhall Young Artists in our under-18s programmes with scholarships and bursaries
- Given vocal and opera students the opportunity to experience exceptional coaching with high-profile artists including Roderick Williams OBE, Kate Royal and Ann Murray DBE
- Funded 400 hours of chamber music coaching

- Facilitated outstanding success in running events online and establishing global live streaming, reaching 125 countries

- Funded student initiatives in the community, from creating music to enhance mother and baby bonding in hospital, to a musical 'befriending service' reaching isolated people with dementia during lockdowns

- Supported inspiring events such as a pop-up poetry installation and a digital arts festival.

We simply couldn't do this without your support.

Thank you.



Photo Matthew Fergusson

2020-2021 has been an extraordinary year around the world. But amidst challenges and uncertainty, the outstanding generosity of our donors has never faltered. We now have over 500 regular supporters, who have collectively contributed an incredible £1.26m towards scholarships at Guildhall School this year.

Your vital support has enabled Guildhall to continue to deliver world-class professional training to the next generation of musicians, actors and production artists.

Your generosity has provided hundreds of students with the means to live and study in our vibrant city; it has widened horizons, created unrivalled opportunities, and enabled our international community to

Takiyah: first year Production Arts student and the Vanstone Scholar

I feel incredibly fortunate to have received support through Guildhall School's Scholarships programme. This financial help has quite simply given me freedom - freedom to focus on things other than how to pay rent or travel costs and juggle part-time jobs. I have had the head space and mental agility to apply myself fully to my learning and the confidence to try new things and get involved in projects I could never have committed to had I been having to hold down paid work.

As a more mature student, I was worried about the effect my return to education would have on my life, but the support I've received has alleviated this anxiety and enabled me to seize every opportunity. Even with the extra challenges of a year in lockdown, I've been able to rent the flat I needed, and continue honouring other commitments as a youth mentor and events manager in Hackney – and still been able to afford to eat more than instant noodles!

I've had the means to travel regularly into Guildhall for practical lessons in LX focusing, rigging and projection mapping, as well as to our theatre to shadow other students and help with fit ups and strikes of events at evenings and weekends, and to visit places of interest on my course. I have indulged my creativity on all sorts of projects in sound, lighting, and video projection, and seen my technical abilities transformed through these experiences.

I have gained the confidence to place myself within the industry, believing in my own credentials as a theatre technician, and improving my career prospects more than I ever imagined. I have forged really interesting

relationships, and experienced the energy of brilliant colleagues and knowledgeable, approachable lecturers.

"I cannot thank Guildhall supporters like Hugh Vanstone enough, who give myself and other scholars these opportunities, and the freedom to grab them with both hands."

Hugh Vanstone is one of the UK's foremost lighting designers.



Matthew Jones, Head of Chamber Music



Consort Quartet
2020-21 Chamber Music Fellows

This academic year has been, against all odds, one of the most successful for chamber music commitments and achievements. Despite the logistical challenges of socially distanced coaching and rehearsal, students were incredibly engaged in, and grateful for, the extensive chamber music provision the School has been able to deliver.

During 2020-21, with the generous support of the Albert and Eugenie Frost Music Trust, Guildhall School facilitated an enormous provision of chamber music coaching. In addition, innovative online and live seminars on topics related to chamber music (including advice from existing world class ensembles and setting up chamber music festivals) proved extremely successful.

With little performing work available, most advanced postgraduate students immersed themselves in chamber music with the most gratifying results, both in terms of depth and range of exploration within repertoire. The examination standard was extremely high, and the entries for our internal Saint James Prize were so numerous that the competition lasted seven hours.

“Chamber music at Guildhall has been a huge part of both my undergraduate and postgraduate studies. The structure of the department allows us to have frequent coaching with the amazing faculty staff, as well as extra sessions with a wide range of visiting ensembles. Having the opportunity to be coached by members of The Endellion Quartet, Heath Quartet, Danish String Quartet and Takács Quartet (to name a few!) has made a great impact on my development as a chamber musician and been massively inspirational.”

Kate Correia De Campos,
Norman Gee Foundation Scholar

Live Streaming

One of the positives to emerge from the Coronavirus pandemic has been the opportunity to engage with a far larger international audience online than we would ever have had visiting our campus venues.

Like so many in the arts, we had to adapt quickly to social distancing requirements and the loss of in-person audiences. Our solution of broadcasting both live-streamed and pre-recorded performances for free via Guildhall's website has been a phenomenal success. Four full operas and drama productions were broadcast live in the Summer 2021 season, and our broadcast programme as a whole has attracted 65,000 views from 125 countries.

The pioneering work of our Audio Visual department and Production Arts students in developing live streaming of the highest quality has been incredible, and could not have been achieved without the generosity of donors in supporting the technical costs. This innovation in our broadcasting abilities will last well beyond the pandemic, allowing us to perfect a blended programme of live performance, live-streams, and recordings, as well as collaborating with other organisations in our sector to share our learnings.

“Productions are now covered by top live sound engineers and mixers using the very best equipment the industry has to offer. Guildhall has effortlessly staged quality production after quality production.”

Justice Ritchie,
Damian Lewis Finishing Fund Scholar



Photo Clive Tolman

Professor Jonathan Vaughan, Interim Principal



Photo Paul Cochrane

In a year of financial difficulty for so many, I want to extend my most sincere thanks to you for your continued investment in our community, which has never been more essential or more appreciated.

As a supporter, you cannot underestimate the impact you have on the lives of our students, and the success of our School. The bursaries and scholarships you fund allow us to continually attract the highest calibre of emerging talent in music, drama and production arts whilst relieving the financial pressures for our students most in need. Your support has enabled our wonderful staff to deliver world-class tuition, with Guildhall School ranked as number one conservatoire in the UK according to The Guardian's music and drama league table.

Most importantly, you truly are investing in the artists of the future: artistic citizens and creative leaders who will share their talent on stage, behind the scenes and in community settings across the globe for decades to come.

By offering them vital financial support at a formative time in their lives and careers, you are alleviating a huge pressure. Money worries even in 'normal times' can undermine a student's ability to learn and flourish. Add to that the anxiety of global pandemic restrictions, and financial assistance becomes quite simply a lifeline.

In this most unusual of years, your support has also helped facilitate the groundbreaking development of Guildhall's very own low latency broadcasting provision, a monumental achievement by our Audio Visual team enabling simultaneous performance by artists in different venues around the School in real time.

Little of this would be possible without you, so thank you again on behalf of myself, the School, and of course the hundreds of students benefiting from your generosity.

Front cover photo by Mihaela Bodlovic

Thanks to the generous support of our donors:

